

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A computer implemented method of configuring organization data related to an organization for access by a user, comprising:

obtaining organization structure information that defines a hierarchical structure of connected nodes, each node representing a business unit, each business unit being a part of the organization, the organization structure defining how the business units are related to each other based on how the nodes are connected to one another in the organization structure;

obtaining data entity information that defines data entities that represent the business data related to the organization;

generating links, separate from the data entities, linking the data entities to the nodes in the organization structure, wherein each node comprises a link container configured to include one or more links to data entities, and wherein generating links comprises providing one or more links to data entities in the link container;and

grouping a plurality of nodes into a node group, each node group comprising a group link container configured to include one or more links to the data entities, and wherein generating links further comprises providing one or more links to the data entities in the group link container; and

controlling whether the user has access to the data entities based on the links, wherein controlling whether the user has access comprises associating user roles with the nodes and group nodes, and further comprises assigning the user to a user role, and further comprises filtering the user access to data entities linked to nodes that are associated with the user role to which the user is assigned.

2. Cancelled.

3. Cancelled

4. Cancelled

5. Cancelled

6. Cancelled

7. Cancelled

8. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein obtaining organization structure information comprises:

generating the organization structure information as a tree structure.

9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~9~~8 and further comprising:

changing the tree structure; and

modifying the links to link the data entities to the changed tree structure.

10. (Original) The method of claim 9 wherein changing the tree structure affects nodes in the tree structure and wherein modifying the links comprises:

automatically transferring links from the affected nodes to other nodes in the tree structure.

11. (Original) The method of claim 9 wherein changing the tree structure affects nodes in the tree structure and wherein modifying the links comprises:

presenting links in the affected nodes for manual modification.

12. (Currently Amended) A system for relating data, corresponding to an organization, to an organization structure indicative of a structure of the organization, the system comprising:

an organization structure generator component, configured to generate the organization structure with a plurality of connected nodes, each node representing a business unit, each business unit being part of the organization;~~and~~

a link manager component configured to generate a link between a given business unit of the organization represented by a given node in the organization structure and an entity representative of business data corresponding to the organization by generating the link between the given node and the entity, wherein each node comprises a link container and wherein the link manager is configured to generate the link between the given unit and the entity by placing the link in the link container represented by the given node;

a user role manager component configured to assign a user role to a user, wherein the user role manager component is configured to link each role to nodes in the organization structure through containers associated with those nodes; and

a filtering layer configured to filter user access to entities based on the user's user role and the links.

13. Cancelled

14. Cancelled

15. Cancelled

16. Cancelled

17. (Currently Amended) The system of claim ~~13~~12 wherein the link manager is configured to automatically modify links in the link containers according to a predetermined process based on changes to the organization structure.

18. (Currently Amended) The system of claim ~~13~~12 wherein changes to the organization structure affect nodes, and wherein the link manager is configured to display links in the link containers corresponding to the affected nodes for manual modification based on the changes to the organization structure.

19. (Currently Amended) A data structure for use in filtering access to business data entities representative of business data related to a business organization, the data structure comprising:

tree data, on a computer readable storage medium, indicative of a tree structure comprised of connected nodes, each node in the tree structure representing a functional business unit of the organization and configured to include filter links, the filter links each identifying a business data entity that is linked to the functional business unit of the organization represented by the node containing the link;~~and~~

a function to use the tree data to control user access to the business data entities;  
user role data representing a plurality of user roles, each user role being associated with a node in the tree structure; and  
role assignment data representing a particular role to which a user is assigned.

20. Cancelled

21. Cancelled

22. (Original) The data structure of claim 19 wherein the tree data is indicative of a hierarchical tree structure.

23. (Original) The data structure of claim 22 and further comprising:

company group data indicative of a group of nodes in the hierarchical tree structure.

24. (Original) The data structure of claim 23 wherein the group of nodes is configured to

include filter links.